

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A progressive gaming system adapted to accept wagers in a plurality of currencies or a  
5 plurality of denominations of the same currency and capable of awarding at least one  
linked prize, the system comprising:
  - (A) a central system adapted to control the progressive gaming system;
  - (B) one or more prizes adapted to being awarded to participants;
  - (C) each of said prizes comprising at least a total wager amount and a minimum prize  
10 value;
  - (D) one or more devices adapted to accept a wager for participation in a prize;
  - (E) each of said devices comprising at least one pay line, said pay line comprising  
odds for winning said prize, said wager and said odds being adapted to the  
determination of a total wager amount;
  - 15 (F) said central system being adapted to link said prizes to said devices based on a  
substantial equivalence of each independent entity's total wager amount;
  - (G) said central system being adapted to enable devices linked to a prize to participate  
for winning said prize; and
  - (H) said central system being adapted to acquire transactions resulting from  
20 participation for said prizes and to control prize events.
2. The system of claim 1 wherein the prize's total wager amount is the theoretical sum of all  
wagers made for each prize award event.

3. The system of claim 1 wherein the devices adapted to participate in a prize are comprised of at least

(A) devices that accept wagers for the chance of winning prizes;

(B) secondary devices coupled with primary devices for the purpose of awarding  
5 bonus play; and

(C) internet enabled gaming programs, events, and/or transactions.

4. The system of claim 1 wherein the devices are adapted to:

(A) accept wagers for play;

(B) utilize at least one pay line, each of said at least one pay line comprising at least  
10 the odds for winning a prize; and

(C) enable determination of a total wager amount based upon the value of said wagers  
and said odds for winning a prize.

5. The system of claim 1 wherein the device's total wager amount comprises the product  
obtained by multiplying the value of a wager times the odds of winning.

15 6. The system of claim 1 wherein the device's total wager amount comprises the product  
obtained by multiplying an exchange rate between a currency of a wager and a currency  
of a prize times the product obtained by multiplying the value of a wager times the odds  
of winning.

7. A method of operating a progressive wagering system, the system being capable of accepting wagers in a plurality of currencies or a plurality of denominations of the same currency, comprising the following steps:

(A) determining a total wager amount for a prize,

5 (B) determining the total wager amount for a game pay line on a device; and

(C) linking the prize to the device if the prize's total wager amount is substantially equal to the device's total wager amount.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein the total wager amount for a prize is the theoretical sum of all wagers made for each prize award event.

10 9. The method of claim 7 wherein the device's total wager amount comprises the product obtained by multiplying the value of a wager times the odds of winning.

10. The method of claim 7 wherein the device's total wager amount comprises the product obtained by multiplying an exchange rate between a currency of a wager and a currency of a prize times the product obtained by multiplying the value of a wager times the odds of winning.

15

11. A method of operating a progressive wagering system, the system being capable of accepting wagers in a plurality of currencies or a plurality of denominations of the same currency, comprising the following steps:

- (A) determining a total wager amount for a progressive prize,
- (B) determining the total wager amount for a game pay line on a gaming device; and
- (C) linking the gaming device to the progressive prize if the total wager amount for the progressive prize is substantially equal to the total wager amount for the game pay line.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the total wager amount for the progressive prize is the theoretical sum of all wagers made for each prize award event.

13. The method of claim 11 wherein the total wager amount for the game pay line is a product obtained by multiplying an exchange rate between a currency of a wager and a currency of a progressive prize by the product of a wager of a game and odds of winning the game pay line.

14. A method of operating a progressive wagering system, comprising:

(A) determining a total wager amount for a progressive prize;

(B) recording the progressive prize's total wager amount;

(C) determining the total wager amount for a game pay line on a gaming device;

(D) recording the wagering amount for the gaming device's pay line;

(E) comparing the total wager amount recorded for the progressive prize with the total  
wager amount recorded for the game pay line on the gaming device; and

(F) linking the progressive prize to the gaming device's pay line if the total wager

amount recorded for the progressive prize is substantially equal to the total wager

amount recorded for the gaming device's pay line.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein the total wager amount for the progressive prize is the  
theoretical sum of all wagers made for each prize award event.

16. The method of claim 14 wherein the total wager amount for the game pay line is the  
product of a wager made on the gaming device multiplied by odds of winning the game  
pay line.